

Letter from John E. Hudson to Alexander Graham Bell, January 6, 1898

Subject THE AMERICAN BELL TELEPHONE CO. N o . 125 MILK STREET. P. O. DRAWER 2. JOHN E. HUDSON President Wm. R. DRIVER Treasurer Boston, January 6, 1898. In reply to yours No. Professor A. Graham Bell, 331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. Dear Mr. Bell:

Your letter of recent date was duly received, saying that, presuming that the Board of Directors would soon fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Hubbard, you wrote to let me know that the appointment of Mr. Charles J. Bell as Mr. Hubbard's successor would be satisfactory to the family; adding, that you did not know what the mode of proceeding might be under such circumstances, but there could be no harm at all events in writing to me personally upon the subject.

I am very glad that you feel that you can write to me with perfect freedom in expressing any wishes; but I am sorry to have to add that it probably will not be possible to meet them in this case. The Messrs. Crane, of Dalton, are by far the largest stockholders in the Company. It has for some time been understood² that they desired representation on the Board of Direction, and it has been understood that one of them should come upon the Board in case of a vacancy; so that we feel that one of them should be elected to the Board at the next annual election.

Of course this does not, as we see it, leave your holdings unrepresented — we have always thought of Mr. Eustis Hubbard as representing, not only his own interests, but in some sort the interests of his brother and his brother's family as well.

Thank you for calling my attention to the fact that Mrs. Hubbard felt some embarrassment in using the Long Distance pass, as it stood in Mr. Hubbard's name, being in doubt

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whether she was entitled to the privileges conferred by it. I take great pleasure in enclosing herein a frank over the Long Distance lines for her personal and social messages during the present year.

I am glad, too, that the bundle of your letters to Mrs. Bell before your marriage, has been found. We searched for them here — and, I trust Mrs. Bell will believe me, with much diligence.

With best good wishes of the season for you and yours,

I am, Very truly yours, John E. Hudson